

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 301517

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04
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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:CWSCHMIDT/LVA

APPROVED BY EUR:JAARMITAGE

TREASURY:PSUCHMAN

EB/STA:JSPIRO (SUBS)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY WARSAW NIACT IMMEDIATE

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EO. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, PL

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON ON
COUNTERVAILING DUTIES

REF: WARSAW 8835 AND PREVIOUS

1. POLISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAD ALSO INDICATED TO US
THAT GOP IS ANXIOUS TO SEND TEAM OF EXPERTS TO WASHINGTON
FOR DISCUSSIONS ON PROPOSED NEW TREASURY REGULATIONS ON
COUNTERVAILING DUTIES. EMBASSY HAD INFORMED US EVENING OF
DECEMBER 9 THAT IT UNDERSTOOD LATEST THINKING IN WARSAW WAS
TO SEND EXPERT TEAM CONSISTING OF BRZOSKA, TRZECIAKOWSKI
AND STREBSKI EITHER DURING WEEK OF DECEMBER 13 OR IN MID-
JANUARY, WHICH WOULD THEN BE FOLLOWED BY VICE MINISTERIAL
LEVEL VISIT IN MID-FEBRUARY.

2. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMITAGE MET WITH AMBASSADOR
TRAMPCZYNSKI DECEMBER 10 IN THE AFTERNOON (REFTEL RECEIVED
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PAGE 02 STATE 301517

JUST PRIOR TO START OF MEETING) TO EXPLAIN THAT WE

APPRECIATE GOP'S CONCERN AND SENSITIVITY CONCERNING THE COUNTERVAILING DUTY QUESTION. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVED THAT, IN THE LIGHT OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS, IT WOULD NOT BE ADVISABLE FOR THE GOP TO SEND A DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON DURING THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 13. ARMITAGE EXPLAINED THAT

THE KEY NEW DEVELOPMENT WAS THAT, IN EFFECT, A DEGREE OF FLEXIBILITY HAD BEEN INTRODUCED ON THE DECEMBER 17 DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED REGULATIONS ON COUNTERVAILING DUTIES. AS A RESULT, ARMITAGE ADDED, COMMENTS AND VIEWS OF POLISH EXPERTS AND OF THE GOP ITSELF WHICH ARE RECEIVED AFTER THE CLOSE ON DECEMBER 17 OF THE OFFICIAL PERIOD OF COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED TREASURY REGULATIONS WILL BE FULLY CONSIDERED BY TREASURY AND GIVEN EQUAL WEIGHT WITH THOSE RECEIVED PRIOR TO DECEMBER 17. ARMITAGE ALSO SAID, AND REITERATED THAT TREASURY DOES NOT RPT NOT PLAN TO MAKE A DECISION RE FINAL CONTENT AND PROMULGATION OF COUNTERVAILING DUTY REGULATION APPLICABLE TO STATE-CONTROLLED ECONOMIES UNTIL AFTER IT HAS HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE GOP COMMENTS AND US-GOP TALKS HAD TAKEN PLACE. ARMITAGE THEN SUGGESTED THAT THE POLISH EXPERTS PLAN TO COME TO WASHINGTON FOR TALKS WITH TREASURY AND OTHER INTERESTED AGENCIES SOME TIME AFTER THE START OF THE NEW YEAR, WITH PRECISE TIMING TO BE WORKED OUT LATER.

3. AMBASSADOR TRAMPCZYNSKI, AFTER SEEKING AND RECEIVING RENEWED ASSURANCES THAT THE APPLICABLE REGULATION WOULD NOT BE PROMULGATED UNTIL GOP-USG TALKS HAD TAKEN PLACE, AGREED TO THE IDEA OF PUTTING OFF THE TALKS AT LEAST UNTIL SOMETIME IN JANUARY. ARMITAGETHEN SPECIFICALLY SUGGESTED THAT THE TALKS MIGHT TAKE PLACE AT TWO LEVELS: EXPERTS WOULD MEET TO BEGIN WITH; ON THE BASIS OF THEIR TALKS, IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE TO HAVE SUBSEQUENT TALKS INVOLVING VICE-MINISTERIAL LEVEL OFFICIALS. AMBASSADOR TRAMPCZYNSKI AGREED TO THIS SUGGESTION AS WELL. FINALLY, ARMITAGE SAID THAT HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO DISCUSS TIMING OF THE USG-GOP TALKS WITH AMBASSADOR TRAMPCZYNSKI IN EARLY JANUARY, AND THE AMBASSADOR ASSENTED TO THIS TIMETABLE.

4. ARMITAGE SUGGESTED THAT WHEN THE TALKS TAKE PLACE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 301517

POLISH EXPERTS CONCENTRATE ON PRACTICAL AND CONCRETE IDEAS AS TO HOW POSSIBLE COMPLAINTS CONCERNING SUBSIDIZED EXPORTS CAN BE HANDLED, RATHER THAN MERELY EXPRESSING THEIR CONCERNS RE REGULATION PROPOSED BY TREASURY. HE ADDED THAT WE WOULD WELCOME WRITTEN COMMENTS AND IDEAS FROM THE GOP PRIOR TO THE TALKS.

5. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO REITERATE ABOVE POINTS TO GOP

ASAP, STRESSING THAT WHILE IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO MEET
WITH EXPERTS THIS MONTH, THIS WILL HAVE NO ADVERSE EFFECT
ON PROPOSED NEW TREASURY REGULATION, AND THAT USG REMAINS
VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN RECEIVING POLISH COMMENTS AND SUG-
GESTIONS AT MUTUALLY AGREED TIME. ROBINSON

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